



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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September 25, 2003

TO: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller 

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – COMMUNITY
YOUTH SPORTS AND ARTS FOUNDATION**

We have completed a review of Community Youth Sports and Arts Foundation (CYSAF). CYSAF is a licensed Group Home with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department. CYSAF is a six-bed facility located in the Second Supervisorial District that provides care for boys ages 12-18 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, CYSAF was providing services for six Los Angeles County Probation children.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to verify that CYSAF is providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues. The review included an evaluation of CYSAF's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with two children placed with CYSAF at the time of the review. The interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by CYSAF, and to ensure its adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, CYSAF is providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. However, the agency needs to provide residents with an adequate amount of snacks and give residents the opportunity to participate in menu planning. Attached is a detailed report of the monitoring findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management has agreed to provide Probation with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days of the receipt of this report. We thank CYSAF's management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

Attachment

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer

Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation
4828 Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90043
Phone: (323) 294-8320
License No.: 191800533
Rate Classification Level: 9

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation (CYSAF) is a moderately maintained group home located in a residential and business community. There were no safety hazards observed.

The interior of the home is generally neat and clean. The common rooms are adequately decorated and maintained. Resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The agency has some athletic and educational equipment for the residents' daily use including a backyard recreation room with weights, a pool table, and other equipment. There are also games, a computer, video games, board games, and books.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen foods, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored. However, there was only one half gallon of milk and no snacks available for the residents.

Recommendations

- 1. Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation management provide residents with an adequate quantity of milk and snacks.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met the agency's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the CYSAF program.

The Needs and Service Plans (NSPs) are realistic, measurable, and time specific. Both children and their placement workers participate in the development and updating of the NSPs.

At the time of the review, Quarterly Reports were not due for either resident.

Both residents are receiving individual and group therapy sessions.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

Out of school for the summer, both residents were scheduled to attend the facility's charter school in the fall. There were no records of semester report cards and/or progress reports because both residents were new placements. The residents reported that they have not been provided with educational activities during the summer such as going to the library or having time set aside for reading, etc. However, they felt the agency was supportive of their academic progress by enrolling them in school for the coming school year.

Development of daily living skills is a part of CYSAF's program. Hygiene care is discussed as needed, and employment preparation is encouraged. Age-appropriate residents are involved or offered the opportunity to participate, in emancipation and vocational programs.

Recommendations

- 2. Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation management provide residents with an adequate amount of daily educational cognitive stimulation.**

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

CYSAF provides its residents with sufficient opportunity to participate in both on-ground and off-ground recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided by the agency and stated that the recreation schedules are followed and implemented.

CYSAF utilizes local community organizations for recreation and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in the planning of some of the activities, have ample free time, can participate in self-selected activities, and that the agency provides transportation to the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: There were six residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there are no residents on psychotropic medications.

Comments:

According to the agency's director, there are no residents on psychotropic medications at the time of this review.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents expressed satisfaction with the facility and the staff stating that the atmosphere is generally respectful. The residents participated in an initial orientation and the policies and procedures are posted in the facility. The residents reported that they felt safe in the home and that there is no interference with daily living functions.

Both residents reported dissatisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. Both residents stated that they do not get snacks on a regular basis, just fruit. One resident reported that there sometimes was not enough food. The residents reported that staff supervises them appropriately and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with the staff. Both residents felt there was at least one staff member they could trust and easily talk to.

Both residents reported that they had assigned reasonable chores to complete on a daily basis, are able to have visitors, make and receive personal telephone calls, and contact their workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Both were able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and felt that the staff respected their cultural lifestyles by allowing residents to celebrate different holidays.

The residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced by all of the staff and that they had fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Both residents were aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations**3. Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation management:**

- a. **Provide residents with an adequate amount of food at all times.**
- b. **Provide residents with the opportunity to participate in menu planning.**

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

CYSAF provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The agency supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to

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select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. The agency provides its residents with a fair minimum weekly allowance.

CYSAF provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents have life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.